

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the initial Office Action, claim 11 was indicated as being allowable. In this regard, new claim 45 has been added to the application which represents original claim 11 written in independent form.

In the Office Action, claims 10, 12, 22 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement. In response, Applicants submit that the specification provides sufficient teaching for one skilled in the art to make and/or use any of the inventions defined in the above claims. For instance, the specification in conjunction with the drawings demonstrate a configuration in which the throughdrying fabric is wrapped around the drying cylinder at least 345°. Further, the pressures defined in claims 10, 12 and 22 can be replicated by one skilled in the art without undue experimentation. If the Examiner continues to reject the claims under § 112, Applicants request further explanation as to why it is believed the claims do not meet the enablement requirement.

In the Office Action, independent claims 1, 15 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over U.S. Patent No. 4,238,284 to Huostila in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,891,500 to Kankaanpaa. Applicants submit, however, that claims 1, 15 and 28 as now amended patentably define over both references.

For instance, claims 1, 15 and 28 all define a transfer roll that facilitates transfer of a paper web from a first fabric, such as a transfer fabric, to a throughdrying fabric. As stated in claim 1, the first fabric and the throughdrying fabric are wrapped around the transfer roll in an overwrapping relationship. All of the claims require that the transfer roll include “a pressurized zone” configured to emit a gaseous stream or fluid that facilitates the transfer of the paper web.

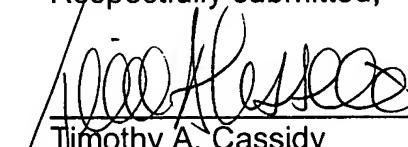
Huostila is directed to a method for dewatering a tissue web. As shown in Fig. 2, for instance, the apparatus disclosed in Huostila includes a pick-up felt 21 that carries a web onto a flow through drying wire 31 at a roller 25. Roller 25, as opposed to emitting a gaseous or fluid stream as required in the currently pending claims, is equipped with a

vacuum zone 25a. Thus, as opposed to emitting a gaseous or fluid stream to facilitate transfer, roller 25 in Huostila creates a "suction zone" for dewatering the web and dewatering the felt. Thus, Huostila fails to disclose or suggest a system as defined in claims 1, 15 and 28.

Kankaanpaa discloses a paper machine having a long transport wire for making tissue paper. Kankaanpaa does disclose a transfer roll for maintaining a web onto a drying wire. It would not have been obvious, however, to somehow replace the vacuum roller 25 in Huostila with the transfer roll as shown in Kankaanpaa. Such a modification, for instance, would completely destroy the function of the drawing roller 25 in Huostila. For instance, as described above, the drawing roller 25 is used to dewater the web and to remove water from the felt. In fact, if the drawing roller 25 as disclosed in Huostila were replaced with a roller having a pressurized zone, the roller may actually cause water to transfer from the felt back into the web W. As such, Applicants submit that claims 1, 15 and 28 patentably define over Huostila either alone or in combination with Kankaanpaa.

In summary, Applicants submit that the presently pending claims are in complete condition for allowance. Should any issues remain after consideration of this response, however, then Examiner Rinehart is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned at his convenience.

Respectfully submitted,


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December 19, 2006

Date